



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 4, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Gary Abud, 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

- Worked with Grosse Pointe Public Schools K-12 teachers regularly on technology integration, project-based learning, instructional strategies, and standards-based grading.
- Trained an elementary school staff in Rochester on the use of the Nearpod web application for interactive lesson design and formative assessment.
- Worked with an elementary school staff in Grosse Pointe on instructional design using Nearpod to convert their interactive whiteboard software lessons to Nearpod lesson for use with their mobile devices.
- Led an in-service for our superintendent's cabinet on Next Generation Science Standards.
- Worked with our Educational Programs Leadership Council to review all of our curriculum, instruction, and student assessments to ensure the most relevant and up-to-date resources are available to teachers.
- Visited the Full Circle Foundation in Grosse Pointe, a non-profit resale shop and student enterprise center for post-secondary special education students between the ages of 18-26.
- Worked with K-12 teachers on integrating social media into their classrooms.
- Presented to the Grosse Pointe Foundation For Public Education on the current status of our technology bond proposal development, instructional technology integration, and recommendations for grant funding of technology.
- Presented to the Grosse Pointe School Board on the current status of our technology bond proposal development, instructional technology integration, and recommendations for grant funding of technology.
- Worked with our director of elementary instruction on the redesign of our district's elementary report card rubric to match up with feedback obtained from teachers.
- Trained elementary grade level leaders on the use of iPads in education at Mason Elementary in Grosse Pointe to support their use of grant-provided iPad carts for their school.

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- Met with State Representative, Pete Lund, to discuss education issues in Michigan.
- Went to Inter-City Baptist School in Allen Park to visit science classrooms and work with their administration on developing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for their K-12 students.
- Trained high school teachers as part of a grant pilot program, to use iPad Minis in their teaching for formative assessment.
- Trained elementary teachers on the use of Skype in the classroom for Mystery Skype and author Skype to get classrooms connected.
- Worked with middle school administrators to get their school a social media presence and train them in social media marketing for promoting their school.
- Met with Kim Mathiot, Phil Chase, and other members of the Assessment and Accountability team to learn about the work of their office.
- Worked with Grosse Pointe chemistry teachers on project-based learning and co-taught a project-based lesson with a first-year chemistry teacher.
- Organized a Community Technology Learning Night in Grosse Pointe where students taught community members about a variety of topics for the use of mobile devices.
- Met with the department of instructional technology at the Jackson ISD, and visited several schools in Jackson County to observe classrooms and examples of technology use in schools.
- Worked with the instructional technology department from St. Joseph County ISD to organize Google Camp for educators.
- Attended Google Camp at Constantine High School, where I gave a keynote address on educational technology and led breakout sessions on Google Apps For Education.
- Completed an interview with the Meemic Foundation as part of their education promotion program.
- Visited Harper Woods Middle School and the classroom of June Teisan, 2007 Michigan Teacher of the Year, where I observed science lessons, toured the school, and co-taught a lesson with Mrs. Teisan and her student teacher, Meredith Chicklas, on using iPads for project-based learning in their FutureThink class.
- Ran an in-service for elementary staff and members of our superintendent's cabinet on standards-based assessment and grading.
- Met with a group of six parents from a homeschool network who have to learn more about homeschooling and their views on education.
- Worked with elementary school teachers to set up crowd-sourced blogs for getting students' writing, and publishing classroom work online.
- Met with music teacher Joe Vercellino from Northpointe Academy, a Detroit charter school, to learn about his classroom and his after-school music group Beasts of the Beat, who recently released their first album.
 - I connected Joe Vercellino with Brad Wilson, of Jackson County ISD and #MichEd, to do an interview and feature Joe's classroom on the #MichEd podcast, because of Joe's innovative use of video technology with his students music projects and how Joe developed a music program on a very low school budget.

- Presented to two elementary school staffs on the use of iPads to support instruction in the classroom during their Halloween in-service.
- Completed and submitted my application for National Teacher of the Year with the help of Barb Fardell, Jean Shane, my wife Janice Abud, and a close teacher friend, Justin Wesley.
- Organized and led a Saturday workshop for chemistry teachers in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties on Next Generation Science Standards.
- Served on the technology team at my church, the Eastside Vineyard.
- Attended the miGoogle Conference in Brighton and led a hands-on workshop for 35 teachers from around the state on project-based learning with Google Apps For Education.
- Worked with the district planning committee to organize an in-district conference for Election Day in Grosse Pointe, where all district teachers would attend professional development sessions on 75 topics, mostly led by district staff.
- Led breakout sessions at our district professional development conference on Election Day for standards-based grading and constructivist teaching.
- Attended the Charlevoix-Emmett ISD Area Wide Professional Development Day at Boyne City High School, where I gave the keynote address on teacher leadership and ran a breakout session for 68 teachers on classroom branding and teacher leadership.
- Worked with 5th grade teachers in Grosse Pointe on project-based learning and Next Generation Science Standards training.
- Worked with 8th grade science teachers in Grosse Pointe on Next Generation Science Standards training.
- Attended the Michigan Eye Bank's Night For Sight charity event in Ferndale.
- Organized a site visit in Rochester Community Schools with State Representative, Tom McMillin, where I met with him to tour classrooms at an elementary, middle, and high school in Rochester as well as met with teachers in a round-table discussion about teacher evaluation at each school.
- Led project-based learning training for middle school language arts teachers.
- Gave a next-generation science standards webinar for science teachers in the Tri-County area of metro Detroit.
- Attended the Michigan Digital Learning Conference at Macomb ISD, and presented on the use of mobile devices in education.
- Met with the director of technology at the Detroit Historical Society to learn about the educational technology and programming they have available to schools in the Metro Detroit area.
- Provided training to elementary teachers on formative assessment with technology, using student response system "clickers" and other mobile devices.
- Attended the Galileo Teacher Leadership Academy workshop on brain-based learning with Marcia Tate.
- Continued to moderate and organize the statewide Teacher Leadership Challenge on my blog to get educators more connected and sharing ideas.

- Worked with teachers, parents, and students to organize the first ever GPNspire Talks Conference, an evening of inspiring student talks given by students around Metro Detroit, which took place at Grosse Pointe North High School. The event gives students a voice to share ideas, and benefits two local charities: Kids Without Cancer and Make a Wish Michigan.
- Attended the Metro Detroit Science Teachers Association and Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference in Woodhaven, where I presented on mobile devices in science education.
- Met with elementary school teachers in Rochester to follow up on prior training with Nearpod and offer support for next steps and integration into lessons.